

(3) *The awareness*

Here in this case the awareness refers to an eye consciousness in the continuum of a person who has attained any of the four concentrations.

However, in general, an awareness refers to any of the six consciousnesses (the five sense consciousnesses and the mental consciousness).

Before a person attains any of the four concentrations the only awarenesses that arise in his mental continuum are awarenesses that pertain to the Desire Realm.

When a meditator attains the first concentration, he can manifest not only the awarenesses that pertain to the Desire Realm (with the exception of coarse afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm) but also the awarenesses that pertain to the First Concentration Abode.

However, if he has not attained the second concentration and above, he cannot manifest awarenesses that pertain to the Second Concentration, the Third Concentration, the Fourth Concentration, or to any of the four Formless Realms.

(4) *The object of the awareness*

In the case of an eye consciousness in the continuum of a person who has attained any of the four concentrations, the object of the awareness refers to the object of the eye consciousness, i.e. it refers to the visual object that is either shape or colour.

Similar to the sense power and awareness, a person, who has not attained the first concentration, can only perceive objects that pertain to the Desire Realm.

Once he has attained the first concentration (but not the second concentration) he can perceive objects that pertain to the Desire Realm and the First Concentration, but he cannot perceive objects that pertain to the Second Concentration, and so forth.

This means that the eye consciousness in the continuum of that person can perceive shape and colour that pertain to the Desire Realm and the First Realm but it cannot perceive shape and colour that pertain to any of the higher Concentration Abodes or the four Formless Realms.

Returning to the **General Meaning**, the four phenomena (person, sense power, awareness, and object) can differ with regard to the level they pertain to when meditators attain any of the meditative absorptions. This is explained by Panchen Sonam Drakpa by way of the examples of an eye consciousness, its sense power, and its object:

1. When a person of the Desire Realm perceives a visual form that pertains to the Desire Realm in dependence on an eye sense power that pertains to the Desire Realm, the four –person, eye sense power, eye consciousness, and visual object – are of the same level. They are of the same level because all of them pertain to the Desire Realm.

	Person	Eye sense power	Visual object	Eye consciousness
Desire Realm	x	x	x	x
First Concentration				

2. When a person of the Desire Realm perceives a visual form that pertains to the First Concentration in dependence on an eye sense power that pertains to the First Concentration, the four (person, eye sense power, eye consciousness, and visual object) are not of the same level. They are of different levels because the person and the eye consciousness pertain to the Desire Realm whereas the eye sense power and the object pertain to the First Concentration.

	Person	Eye sense power	Visual object	Eye consciousness
Desire Realm	x			x
First Concentration		x	x	

3. When a person of the First Concentration perceives a visual form that pertains to the First Concentration in dependence on an eye sense power that pertains to the First Concentration, the four (person, eye sense power, eye consciousness, and visual object) are of the same level. They are of the same level because all of them pertain to the First Concentration.

	Person	Eye sense power	Visual object	Eye consciousness
Desire Realm				
First Concentration	x	x	x	x

4. When a person of the First Concentration perceives a visual form that pertains to the Desire Realm in dependence on an eye sense power that pertains to the First Concentration, the four (person, eye sense power, eye consciousness, and visual object) are not of the same level. They are of different levels because the visual object pertains to the Desire Realm whereas the person, the eye sense power, and the eye consciousness pertain to the First Concentration.

	Person	Eye sense power	Visual object	Eye consciousness
Desire Realm			x	
First Concentration	x	x		x

5. When a person of the First Concentration perceives a visual form that pertains to the Second Concentration in dependence on an eye sense power that pertains to the Second Concentration, the four (person, eye sense power, eye consciousness, and visual object) are not of the same level. They are of different levels because the person and the eye consciousness pertain to the First Concentration whereas the eye sense power and the visual object pertain to the Second Concentration.

	Person	Eye sense power	Visual object	Eye consciousness
Desire Realm				
First Concentration	x			x
Second Concentration		x	x	

6. When a person of the Third Concentration perceives a visual form that pertains to the Second Concentration in dependence on an eye sense power that pertains to the Fourth Concentration, the four (person, eye sense power, eye consciousness, and visual object) are not of the same level. They are of different levels because the eye consciousness pertains to the First Concentration, the visual object to the Second Concentration, the person to the Third Concentration, and the sense power to the Fourth Concentration.

	Person	Eye sense power	Visual object	Eye consciousness
Desire Realm				
First Concentration				x
Second Concentration			x	
Third Concentration	x			
Fourth Concentration		x		

Please note that in the case of a person of the Desire Realm or the First Concentration, the level that the sense consciousness pertains to is determined by the level that the person, in whose continuum the sense consciousness arises, pertains to. Therefore, the eye consciousness of a person who has, for instance, attained the first concentration but who abides in the Desire Realm pertains to the Desire Realm.

